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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH KUMAR		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	298400
Center	ONLINE	Date	22-8-2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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9	10	
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11	15	
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Reservation of seats in legislature is needed to ensure meaningful political participation of women and to make the democratic process truly inclusive. Discuss the statement in the light of 108th Constitution Amendment Bill.

(150 words) 10

महिलाओं की सार्थक राजनीतिक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने एवं लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को सही अर्थों में समावेशी बनाने हेतु विधायिका में सीटों के आरक्षण की आवश्यकता है। 108वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के आलोक में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

The 108th constitutional amendment Bill aimed at reserving 1/3rd of seats for women in the legislature.

HOW IT WILL ENSURE:

(i) Meaningful participation

→ Women will have a say in the laws that affect them.

→ Can raise women specific issues.

→ Will ensure that more women voters participate in the elections.

→ will inspire more women to take up politics

(ii) inclusive Democratic process

→ will ensure that half of our population

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is not left out from decision making.

→ Will ensure greater dialogue on women issues.

However some issues have been raised:

→ May disincentivise legislators from taking long term steps because they may not stand from that constituency again

→ Some say it divert attention from major issues like criminalisation of politics and electoral reforms.

Despite these caveats, in light of mere 16% representation in the Lok Sabha (Association of Democratic Reforms), passing of the Bill is a must for women empowerment.

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2. Discuss the issue of reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment in the light of various judicial pronouncements and constitutional amendments. (150 words) 10

विभिन्न न्यायिक निर्णयों और संवैधानिक संशोधनों के आलोक में सार्वजनिक नियोजन में SCs और STs के लिए पदोन्नति में आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 16 4(A), 4(B) deals with reservation in promotions for SC and STs in public employment.

The supreme court in the Indra Sawhney case held reservation in promotion of SC & STs unconstitutional. However by the 77th Amendment, Article 16 4(A) and 4(B) were added making promotions legal.

It was argued that merely reserving posts may not be enough for empowerment as SC & ST representation at higher levels may be lacking. This was to be done keeping Article 335 in mind (ensuring efficiency of administration).

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These amendments were upheld by Supreme Court (SC) in the Nagaraj case.

However there have been calls for scrapping this provision as it is claimed representation in employment is enough.

But seeing the abysmal representation of SC and STs at decision making levels in the administration, these measures are necessary.

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3. Highlight the reasons behind underperformance of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). How can their performance be improved?

(150 words) 10

स्वायत्त जिला परिषदों (ADCs) के निम्नस्तरीय कार्य-निष्पादन के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। उनके कार्य-निष्पादन को कैसे बेहतर किया जा सकता है?

Autonomous District Councils are formed in the 6th schedule states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

However their mandate of developing these regions according to their specific needs hasn't been fulfilled as:

→ Political interference in functioning.

→ Corruption in functioning

→ The Governor is responsible for raising issues with their working, but he does not sometimes because of his closeness with state government

→ lack of adequate funds and manpower.

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Improving their performance

→ Government must promptly address issues in their functioning.

→ Strengthening them with greater power and funds like recent proposal of state finance commission directly recommending devolution to ADCs

→ capacity building and training of ADC members.

→ Clearly demarcating mandate to avoid interference.

Thus their reform is needed to truly fulfill their mandate of tribal owned and oriented governance.

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4. Highlighting the rationale behind continuance of the Official Secrets Act, critically discuss whether the Right to Information should be given precedence over it. (150 words) 10

शासकीय गुप्त बात अधिनियम की निरंतरता के पीछे निहित औचित्य पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या सूचना के अधिकार को इस पर वरीयता दी जानी चाहिए।

Official Secrets Act (OSA) was first passed by Lord Curzon in 1904, and then again in 1923.

Rationale behind continuance

→ To protect from threats to national sovereignty

→ To prevent leaking of sensitive information.

→ Article 19 mentions limitations on Freedom of Information.

Should it be given precedence over RTI

YES

→ RTI cannot extend to sensitive information.

→ No right is absolute.

→ It cannot be at the cost of national sovereignty.

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NO

→ A modern democratic country with such an Act doesn't suit its democratic credentials.

→ May be used to silence whistleblowers

→ RTI's Section 8 already provides safeguards against disclosure of sensitive information.

The Law Commission recommends its repeal or merging with RTI Act to ensure supremacy of the RTI Act.

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5. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India.

(150 words) 10

इंडिया एंटरप्राइज आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) फ्रेमवर्क पर एक संक्षिप्त लेख लिखिए। इसके प्रमुख सिद्धांतों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इसका पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन भारत के वर्तमान शासन परिदृश्य को उन्नत बना सकता है।

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6. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules? (150 words) 10

सेवानिवृत्त सिविल सेवकों के लिए अनिवार्य 'उपशमन' अवधि होने के पीछे क्या औचित्य है? इस प्रावधान के उल्लंघन के कई दृष्टांतों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Cooling off period for a civil servant refers to a certain time gap after retirement during which he cannot take up employment.

RATIONALE

→ Reason behind this was to prevent conflict of interest.

→ A civil servant may favour a corporate during work in return for a lucrative job.

→ To prevent corruption, favouritism.

→ To promote public interest and objectivity during work.

However, recently there have been numerous instances of top ex-bureaucrats taking up jobs at

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governing boards of corporate companies.

Thus, there is a need to relook at Civil Service conduct rules:

→ Making immediate employment punishable.

→ Retired civil servants can be hired in an advisory position in government departments where their experience can contribute.

The Barwani committee had recommended the same and thus mandatory cooling period is needed to keep public interest paramount.

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7. Highlighting the key features of POSHAN Abhiyan, explain how it is an improvement over previous interventions in achieving the goal of malnutrition free India. (150 words) 10

पोषण (POSHAN) अभियान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समझाइए कि यह कुपोषण मुक्त भारत के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में पिछले हस्तक्षेपों की तुलना में कैसे समुन्नत है।

The NFHS-4 (National Family Health Survey) say that stunting is at 36% (approx) and wasting at 38%.

To combat this the POSHAN Abhiyan was launched with the following features:

→ Focus on a 'Kuposhan Mukt Bharat'

→ Focus on fortification, biofortification

→ Evidence based institutional and community interventions.

→ ~~Making~~ Greater involvement of stakeholders.

How it is an improvement over previous schemes?

→ It focuses on making Nutrition a 'Jan Andolan'.

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→ It has specific targets with specific time frames.

→ It lays greater emphasis on involving ASHA workers, gram panchayats, NGOs.

→ Private sector involvement is sought for better service delivery, research and development.

→ It also focuses on addressing social determinants of health more ~~comprehe~~ comprehensively by addressing poverty, education.

→ Special focus on nutritional awareness and counselling.

Proper implementation will ensure a healthy demographic dividend.

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8. Highlighting the need of generic medicines in India, give an account of the reasons behind their lower availability and adoption. Also, mention some steps taken by the government in this regard. (150 words) 10

भारत में जेनरिक दवाओं की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनकी कम उपलब्धता और स्वीकरण हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Generic medicine refers to a chemical compound with bioequivalence to the original medicine. This is usually manufactured after the patent period expires.

Need of Generic Medicines

→ More accessible to a poor population.

→ Its efficacy is usually the same as the original.

→ Increasing burden of Non communicable diseases in India

Reasons behind low availability and adoption

→ Legal disputes between generic manufacturers and original pharma companies.

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→ Doctors / Pharmacists usually have a nexus with pharma companies, thus prescribe branded medicines

→ Lack of enough pharmacies where these medicines was available.

→ Lack of awareness among people regarding their availability.

→ Some people are skeptical regarding their efficacy

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

→ Open Jan Aushadhi centres to increase accessibility

→ National List of essential medicines released to cap price of essential.

→ Opened more testing centres to quickly establish efficacy of generics.

Generics can ensure a cheap, accessible, effective solution to health.

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9. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. **(150 words) 10**

बहुपक्षीय नियम-आधारित व्यापार प्रणाली द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। WTO पर विशेष बल देते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

The multilateral rule based trading regime is under attack due to:

→ Increasing protectionism. e.g. USA

→ Trade war. e.g. between China and USA

→ Lack of democratic decision making have reduced legitimacy of institution. e.g. Green room meetings in WTO.

→ Lack of quick decision making.

→ Countries are at loggerheads over certain issues for many years. e.g. dispute regarding agricultural subsidies in WTO

→ Greater preference for regional trading organisations where countries can have more say. e.g. RCEP

→ Perception of rule flouting: Developed

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countries feel developing flout rules like patent protection, etc.

How these challenges can be addressed?

→ Plurilateralism : e.g. countries can form plurilateral groups in WTO to sort out issues better.

→ Strengthening groupings like G33, G77 so proceeding are more democratic

→ solving pending issues before moving to new issues. e.g. Bali package in WTO

→ Services : form 2/3rds of GDP and are not properly addressed in multilateral institutions like WTO.

The multilateral trading regime led by WTO has brought down tariffs by 85% from 1942, increased trade/GDP ratio and prosperity.

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10. Highlight the major impediments affecting India-US trade relations. What possible consequences can the recent withdrawal of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) have on India-US trade relations? (150 words) 10

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख अवरोधों पर प्रकाश डालिए। हाल ही में, अधिमानता की सामान्यीकृत प्रणाली (जनरलाईज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ़ प्रेफ़ेरेंस: GSP) की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

Indo-US trade relations are mainly built on the planks of defence, investment, nuclear deal, services, among others. It stands at around $79 Billion

MAJOR IMPEDIMENTS in trade relations

→ WTO issues : USA feels India's agri subsidies violate rules, and is also against compulsory licensing.

→ services : Recent tightening of H-1B visas are a concern.

→ President Trump is also not happy with high tariffs that India imposes on imports like bikes, etc.

→ India's relations with Iran, Russia irks America.

→ ~~Distance~~ → Defence : USA is not very keen on technology transfer

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during defense deals.

Recent withdrawal of GSP can have following consequences:

→ Affect small producers and farmers.

→ India will have to pay $ 300 million extra in tariffs.

→ May prompt ~~the~~ India to look to other countries for certain goods like agricultural products.

However, its adverse effects shouldn't be overemphasized. India must abstain from any knee jerk reaction and ensure diplomatic engagements to make trade more robust.

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11. In a democratic setup, it is imperative that independence be balanced with accountability. Discuss in the context of judiciary in India. **(250 words) 15**

किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Democracy is based on power of the people and then democratic institution must be accountable to them.

How independence is needed in Judiciary?

→ They have been established by the constitution and not by ordinary statute.

→ Judiciary has important role of upholding the constitution.

→ Judiciary is necessary to maintain federal equilibrium between the centre and states.

→ Politicization may lead to disturbance of separation of powers among the 3 organs.

→ Judiciary is tarnished with appreciation

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of evidence which can only be done objectively, if th is independence.

→ Independence allow judiciary to work without fear or favour.

→ It ensures that it doesn't become a tool to fulfill narrow agendas.

→ The 1975 emergency is enough warning of the dangers of a non independent judiciary.

However this needs to be balanced with accountability as :

→ No institution can exercise unbridled power.

→ Constitution provides for a weak separation of power with checks and balances.

→ Their decision impact crores of people and they must be held accountable.

→ Sometimes Judiciary has been know to overreach. e.g. Banning

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liquor vends near 500 metres of highways.

→ May lead to corruption, nepotism, favouritism as whole appointment process is within judiciary.

→ Judiciary is ultimately accountable to the people in a democracy.

Thus a balance can be struck by:

→ Ensuring some role of the executive in appointment

→ Recent proposal of streaming important cases with 10 minutes delay.

→ Transparent process of appointment

This can ensure a responsible yet effective judiciary.

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12. Despite various strengths, there are certain weaknesses in the existing structure of departments of the government which render the system slow and cumbersome. Analyze. (250 words) 15

विभिन्न गुणों के बावजूद, सरकार के विभागों की वर्तमान संरचना में कुछ दुर्बलताएं विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Indian governance structures are managed at top levels by myriad departments.

Their strengths are:

→ usually have powers to enforce their mandate.

→ Have done commendable work in improving governance structures and policy implementation.

→ can hire experts to help.

→ Have lot of experience and manpower.

However these strengths are often overshadowed by weaknesses

→ Too many departments: This leads to overlapping mandates. Some departments are irrelevant too.

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→ Bureaucratic structures : with rigid hierarchies, slow decision making.

→ Powers are often not clearly delineated. This often leads to ~~Lack of experts~~ inaction and policy paralysis.

→ Lack of trained functionaries : this cripples governance in this increasingly complex globalized world. e.g. the Telecom department may not be able to handle complexities of 5G technology.

→ Lack of consultation. with experts, businesses, civil society. This leads to unsustainable and highly contested decisions.

→ Fragmented nature of functioning leads to weak, delayed governance. Often this uncoordinated nature of departments leads to issues later..

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→ Inadequate independence : Frequent interference from the top leads to delays and hesitant decision making.

Then there is a need to :

→ Conduct an audit to determine whether a department is needed

→ Cut down useless departments

→ Consolidate departments

→ Enhance inter-departmental coordination.

→ Provide institution mechanism of stakeholder consultation.

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13. In the light of criticism surrounding the composition and functioning of Rajya Sabha, do you think it exists merely as a secondary house of the Parliament? (250 words) 15

राज्यसभा की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली से संबद्ध आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

The Rajya Sabha also known as the 'house of elders' or '2nd house' is an important institution in the federal structure of India.

CRITICISM OF FUNCTIONING

→ It is alleged that it merely delays legislation.

→ Makes legislation more expensive.

→ It is unrepresentative as people do not directly

→ It does not have power of adjournment motion, no confidence motion - thus cannot hold government truly accountable

→ It has no power over money Bills - demand for grants

CRITICUM of COMPOSITION

→ Unequal representation of states :

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Argued that states like UP have disproportionate representation.

→ Does not represent the people as they are not elected directly

→ It is argued that RS membership is offered to corporates, politicians who can't get elected to fulfill their ambitions.

However I do not think that it is merely a secondary house as:

→ It represents states thus giving them a voice in our federal structure.

→ It has equal powers compared to Lok Sabha (LS) in ordinary Bills, constitution amendment Bills, financial Bills.

→ It has special powers to:

a) Requesting ~~to to pa~~ Parliament to make law on state list (A 249)

b) Request Parliament to create All India services (A 312)

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→ It is a revisory house as it checks / delays hasty, ill conceived legislation.

→ It is a permanent house and offers continuity when LS is dissolved.

→ It is less political and thus can offer more objective advice.

→ Can enforce accountability via question hour, zero hour, etc.

→ Can give representation to people from diverse fields like literature, science, arts, social sciences

Thus it is the '2nd house' and not the 'secondary house'.

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14. Despite legislative changes with respect to funding of political parties in recent years, many challenges still exist with regards to transparency in electoral funding. Discuss. Can state funding of elections help in addressing these challenges? (250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में राजनीतिक दलों के वित्त-पोषण के संबंध में विधायी परिवर्तनों के बावजूद, चुनावी वित्त-पोषण में पारदर्शिता संबंधी कई चुनौतियां अभी भी बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राज्य द्वारा चुनावों का वित्त-पोषण इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता कर सकता है?

The Association of Democratic reforms says that 89% of funding to major political parties was from anonymous sources. This point to opaque nature of political funding.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

→ Electoral bonds introduced.

→ Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) amended to bar foreign companies from investing.

→ Donations over ₹2000 need to be disclosed.

→ The Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 promotes transparency in maintenance of accounts by political parties.

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However challenges still exist:

→ Corporate-Politician nexus of quid pro quo is still strong leading to crony capitalism and narrow policies

→ Electoral bonds have been criticized for lack of transparency

→ There is no cap on party spending during elections.

Can state funding address these challenges?

YES

→ ~~will~~ may reduce dependence on corporate grants

→ May ensure a more level playing field for parties not in power.

→ Will increase accountability as state funding will probably be from public money.

→ Law Commission, Indrajit Dasgupta Committee have recommended it.

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NO

→ State funding may become a supplement to corporate funding.

→ Methodology regarding allocation of funds is still unclear.

→ Cannot be the panacea to opaque ~~too~~ practices like parties not maintaining proper accounts.

→ Vital public money that can be used for better purposes.

Thus state electoral funding can be a gamechanger but it must be preceded by critical electoral reforms like financial transparency in maintaining accounts, decriminalizing politics and so on.

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15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation critically depends on reforming the way our cities are governed. In this context, highlight the challenges plaguing urban governance in India and suggest some strategies to overcome those challenges. (250 words) 15

सफल और चिरस्थायी शहरी रूपांतरण मुख्यतया, हमारे शहरों को शासित करने के तरीके में सुधार पर निर्भर करता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी शासन को दुष्प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

The Census 2011 say that 31.1% of our population lives in urban areas ~~cities~~. This makes it imperative to improve urban governance to lead this transformation as:

→ We have limited resources

→ Only efficient governance can ensure appropriate and sustainable outcomes

→ cities and their population are constantly expanding.

→ Hub of economic activities.

These factors show criticality of good urban governance

CHALLENGES plaguing urban governance

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→ Lack of funds : Due to inadequate state devolution, ~~Than~~ inadequate own resources, irrational user charges and improper collection of fees and taxes like property tax.

→ Lack of functions : State hasn't devolved ~~a~~ critical functions like electricity distribution.

→ Functionaries : are often inadequate, ill trained and ill motivated (mainly because of delayed payment)

→ Census towns : are often not recognised as statutory towns leading to lack of urban local bodies.

→ Unplanned development : leads to inefficient governance.

Strategies to overcome challenges

→ Finances : . greater devolution from state
. Rational user charges

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- using GIS to map properties better for taxation.
- Innovative methods like municipal bonds

→ Not creating parallel bodies that often usurp their power.

→ 2nd ARC recommends giving exclusive charge of water, electricity to local bodies.

→ Capacity building of functionaries

→ Hiring experts on local bodies to assist with planned development.

→ Conversion of more census towns into statutory towns.

This will ensure urban governance that leads to transformation of our urban areas.

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16. Explain the role that SHGs play in poverty alleviation in India. Highlighting the shortcomings of the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, give some suggestions to improve its performance. (250 words) 15

भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन में SHGs द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए। SHG-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम की कमियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके निष्पादन में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।

SHGs refers to an organised group of people from similar socio-economic background aimed at promoting their common interests.

ROLE in poverty alleviation

→ Financial inclusion : SHGs often form a bank account to get benefits.

→ Spending : loan are given for entrepreneurial activities, individual expenses like education, health, etc.

→ Women empowerment which reduces vulnerability of women and families to poverty

→ Inclusion in formal financial sector thus saving people from unscrupulous

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money lenders.

Shortcomings of SHG-Bank linkage programme

→ often, interest rates charged are very high.

→ Bank officials may have insensitive behaviour towards members, especially women.

→ Lack of product diversification to SHGs in form of microinsurance, etc.

→ These funds may be used only by few influential members of the SHG.

→ SHGs are often not trained how to properly maintain accounts and use the funds.

Suggestions

→ Capping interest rates.

→ Offering wide range of financial services like insurance, etc.

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→ Sensitizing bank staff.

→ Training modules for SHGs in financial literacy.

→ Monitoring to ensure that the funds are properly used.

This will ensure that SHGs work as tool of social empowerment and poverty alleviation.

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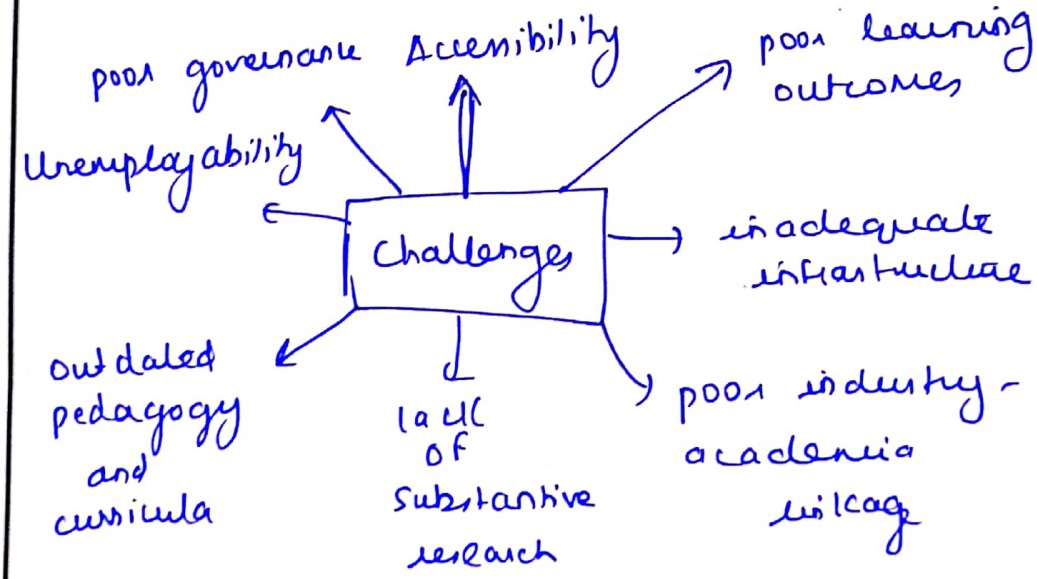
17. Despite initiatives taken by the government in recent years to address the challenges of the Indian higher education system, many reforms are still required to improve its quality and enhance its relevance. Analyse.

(250 words) 15

भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विगत वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों के बावजूद, इसकी गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने और इसकी प्रासंगिकता बढ़ाने हेतु अभी भी कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Higher Education in India is plagued by issues leading to low enrollment rates (26%) and poor learning outcomes (as gleaned from national ranking and global ranking)



Government has taken initiatives to improve its state:

→ Establishing HEFA (Higher education financing agency) to fund

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→ RISE (Revitalising infrastructure in education)

→ Selecting Institutes of Eminence with more freedom.

→ Setting up more IITs, IIMs, AIIMS

However many reforms are still needed to:

① Enhance quality

→ Upgrading infrastructure.

→ Updating curricula, teacher training programmes

→ Improving accreditation mechanism to prevent spurt of spurious colleges

→ Greater funding to state universities (where more than 90% of students study) yet UGC mainly funds central universities

→ using schemes like GIAN to better connect to foreign faculty.

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→ Expand institutes of eminence scheme

IMPROVING RELEVANCE

→ Greater spending on research
→ Industries - Academia connect via internships, workshops, etc.
→ Opening more Vocational institutes
→ Creating a National Registry wherein company's requirements and student's skills can be matched.

This will ensure a robust, outcome oriented higher education system to meet our demographic dividend

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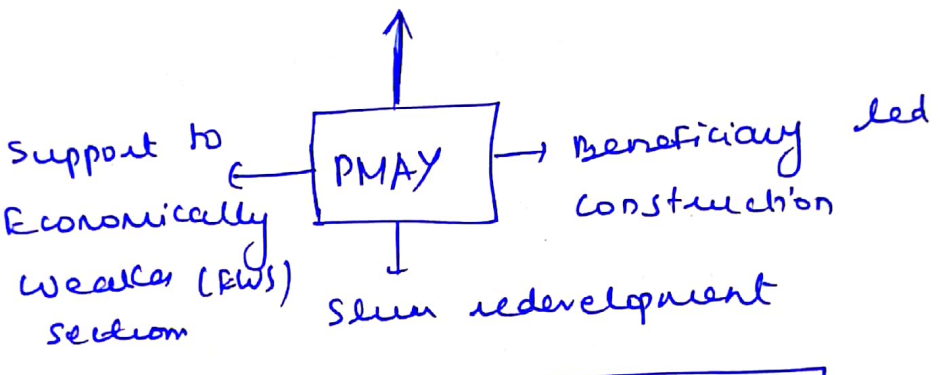
18. Giving an account of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, mention the challenges that it faces in achieving its target. How can the implementation of the programme be fast-tracked? **(250 words) 15**

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत हुई प्रगति का विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इस योजना के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन को किस प्रकार त्वरित किया जा सकता है?

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) aim at providing housing for all by 2022.



Progress made under PMAY

→ Over a million houses constructed.

→ Loan disbursed to EWS for house construction.

→ Slum redevelopment has helped slum dwellers get better housing facilities.

→ +

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Challenges it faces

→ Pace of implementation is inadequate.

→ Private sector isn't incentivised enough to contribute

→ As house requirements vary in different parts like North East, it is an issue.

→ Loan not disbursed adequately to EWS.

→ Lack of collateral cited as reason by banks to not lend.

→ Poor Quality of houses constructed is an issue.

How to fast-track implementation

→ Improving fund disbursal by banks through government guaranteeing certain risk.

→ Incentivising the private sector to contribute more.

→ Building area specific disaster

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resilient homes.

→ Target based approach to local authorities along with safety audits.

This can ensure housing for 'All' by 2022.

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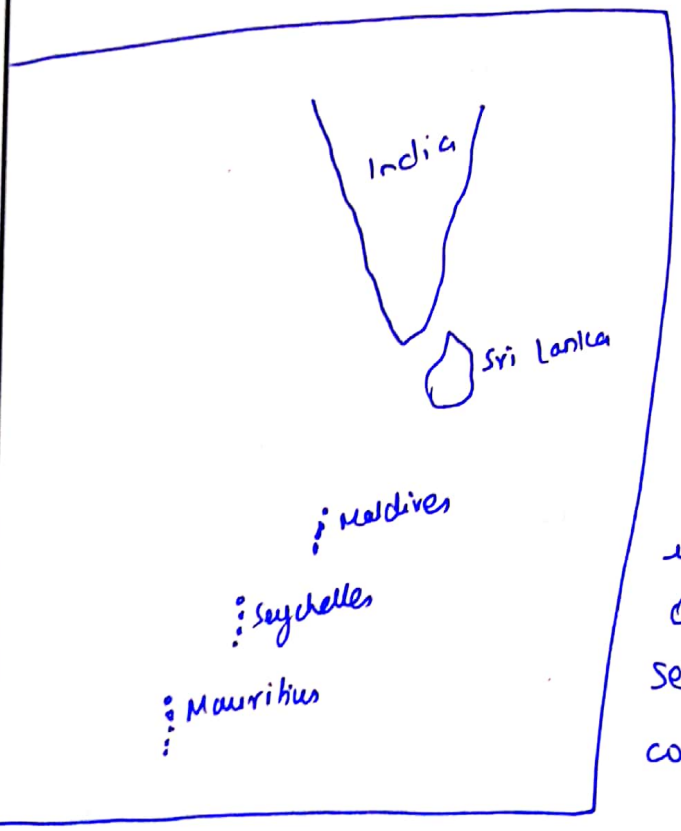
19. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

हिंद महासागर के द्वीपीय राष्ट्र इस क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक रूप-रेखा को आकार देने और भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में अत्यधिक रणनीतिक महत्व रखते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Maritime Island nation near India are in the Indian Ocean region and are an important yet neglected part of our international policy.



They hold immense strategic value as:

→ They are located at crucial point in the Indian Ocean as most sea lanes of communication pass nearby.

→ India ocean is rich in resources like hydrocarbons, polymetallic nodules and their extraction entails cooperation

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with these island nations.

→ Countering China : China thought its string of pearls, Maritime silk Road and debt trap diplomacy is try to increase its influence in this region. e.g. Hambantota port. Thus their cooperation is necessary to stop China's assertiveness

→ India's aspirations of becoming a global and regional power isn't possible without their support.

→ Instability in these island nations may harm geopolitical and security interests of India as seen recently in Maldives.

→ Tackling organized crime like drug and arms trafficking, piracy in the Indian ocean isn't possible without their support.

→ Large Indian Diaspora in these island nation further makes it important to engage them.

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What India can do?

→ Establishing a Small Island states policy.

→ Improving our security engagements e.g. helicopter base in Seychelles

→ Improving implementation of projects to counter China.

→ Removing image of big brother attitude via non reciprocal help.

This will ensure a peaceful, stable Indian ocean.

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20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय विदेश नीति के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में 'विकास सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Developmental assistance form an important tool in achieving India's foreign policy objectives of peace, harmony, and shared prosperity.

Indian developmental assistance has expanded so much that we have become net donors (2015/16: Gave around 7700 crore and received around 2000 crore as per Foreign Ministry data)

How reach has expanded?

→ Asia: India has given more aid to countries in neighbourhood like Bhutan, Nepal, etc and also to countries like Afghanistan and some Central Asian countries

→ Africa: India has started investing more in Africa in the

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past decades. e.g. AAGC (Asian African Growth Corridor), ~~sen~~ building hospitals, schools, etc.

→ Europe: Certain Eastern European countries have received developmental assistance.

→ North America: India even extended developmental assistance to USA during hurricane Katrina.

→ South America = ~~Countries like~~

How scope has expanded?

→ India's concept ~~of~~ is of developmental assistance and not 'aid' as it recognises role of the other country in leading its own development.

→ India has helped build hospitals, schools, roads, ports and other social infrastructure in the countries. Earlier, we mostly sent financial aid.

→ capacity building via programmes like ITEC (~~Indian~~ International Technical and Economic cooperation), Pan African Network, etc.

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→ Connectivity projects like Asian African Growth corridor, Chabahar port, Zaranj-Delaram highway

→ Infrastructure building like Salma Dam, Afghan Parliament, housing in Jaffna, rail link in Africa.

→ Indian democratic experience is also shared via embassies to ancient democracies, like how to conduct elections, etc.

Thus it has helped further cement India's name as an upcoming global power.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1244)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH KUMAR.		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	298400
Center	ONLINE	Date	2/9/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Discuss the need of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC) in bringing about transparency and accountability in fiscal processes in India. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में राजकोषीय प्रक्रियाओं में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का समावेश करने हेतु एक स्वतंत्र राजकोषीय परिषद (IFC) की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

Independent fiscal council refers to an institutionalized mechanism to improve the fiscal processes in India.

NEED in bringing transparency & Accountability

→ Budget revenues are often overestimated and expenditures underestimated leading to issues. IFC will ensure transparent analysis so govt is held accountable for discrepancies

→ Any overspending will have to be reported by the government to IFC. This can deter excess spending as seen in UK.

→ IFC will also advise in adopting best practices from around globe.

→ Will improve parliamentary Accountability of government as IFC reports can be used to question the government.

→ Will prepare Medium term strategic plan allowing government to guide its fiscal policy.

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→ will have outside experts ensuring unbiased nature and transparent working.

→ Reports can be used by SC, media, civil society to scrutinize fiscal performance.

~~Thus it~~ It must be further supplemented by improving budget setting practices, adhering to FRBM fiscal discipline targets.

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2. Recognizing the potential of exports in generating employment, a number of steps need to be taken to address India's weakening export competitiveness. Analyze. (150 words) 10

रोजगार सृजन हेतु निर्यात क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत की कमजोर होती निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा को संबोधित करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The economic survey (2019) stresses on the importance of exports in the 'virtuous cycle' to rejuvenate the Indian economy.

POTENTIAL OF EXPORTS IN GENERATING EMPLOYMENT

→ Export demand can lead to capacity addition increasing employment.

→ May open up industries in new sectors.

→ Some of the export demand like for chemicals, textiles, leather, etc are in labor intensive industries.

→ Since the labor intensive MSMEs form a major part of exporting units, they promote employment.

STEPS TO IMPROVE EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS

→ Identify
- → New markets : e.g. S America
- → New products
- → New avenues

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→ Improving SPS compliance to ensure cases like EU rejecting our mango exports

→ Improving ease of doing business
- → labor reforms
- → easier clearances

This will reduce costs, increasing competitiveness

→ Better negotiating to reduce barriers to our goods in foreign markets, especially in services. e.g. through forums like RCEP

→ Greater support to exporting MSMEs in form of easier tax compliance, cluster approach to reduce costs, build infra.

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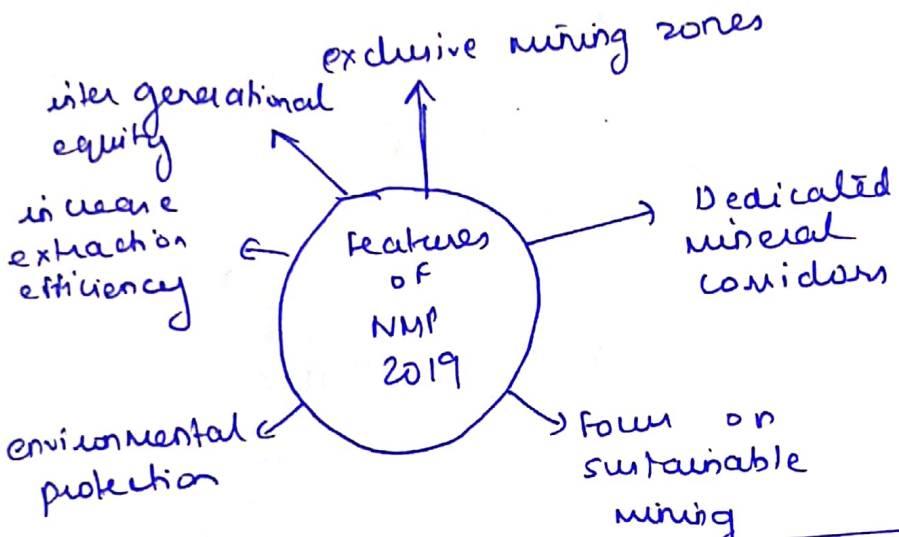
3. Highlighting the main features of National Mineral Policy, 2019, discuss how it can help in ensuring sustainable and responsible mining.
(150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 2019 की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह संधारणीय और उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण खनन सुनिश्चित करने में कैसे सहायता कर सकती है।

National Mineral Policy (NMP), 2019 replaces NMP, 2008.



How it can help ensure sustainable and responsible mining?

→ The provision for allowing dedicated mineral corridors for private players may ensure higher mining efficiency.

→ ~~Reduces~~ Removes captive nature of markets in many minerals

→ Promotes ecological considerations ensuring environmental sustainability.

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→ Ensures greater benefits to affected community and promotes proper rehabilitation measures.

→ Dedicated mineral corridors to be alloted transparently thereby ~~prevo~~ reducing chances of events like SC cancelling coal block allocations

→ Concept of inter generational equity is ~~comme~~ aimed at preventing misuse.

It is a positive step forward to ensure sustainable resource governance.

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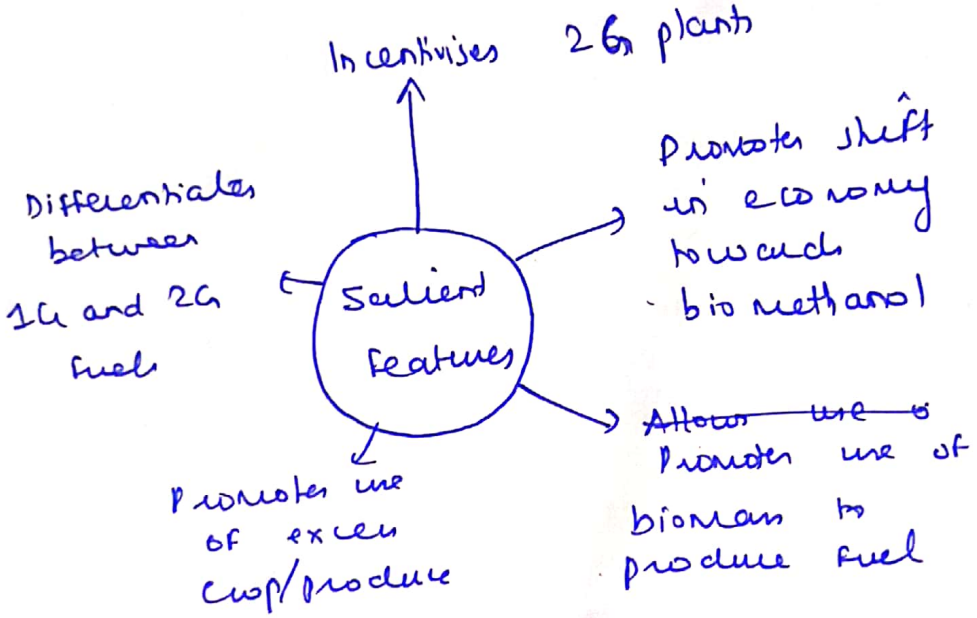
4. Highlighting the salient features of the PM JI-VAN Yojana, analyze how it can assist in achieving the vision and goals of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. **(150 words) 10**

"प्रधानमंत्री जी-वन योजना" की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि यह जैव ईंधन राष्ट्रीय नीति, 2018 की दृष्टि और लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है।

PM JI-VAN Yojana aims at enhancing the usage of biomethanol in the economy.



How it can help achieve goals of National Policy of Biofuels, 2018?

→ Promotes shift towards biofuel by proper incentive structures

→ promotes use of excess produce in line with NPB, 2018

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→ Will ensure greater availability of biofuel and at the same time increasing income of farmer by sale of biomass

→ Aim at demand generation by people, industries.

→ Increasing awareness regarding benefits offered.

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5. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) provides an alternative to capital and chemical intensive agriculture currently being practiced in India. Analyze. (150 words) 10

जीरो बजट प्राकृतिक कृषि (ZBNF), भारत में वर्तमान समय में प्रचलित पूंजी और रसायन गहन कृषि का एक विकल्प प्रदान करती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Zero Budget Natural Farming refers to agronomic practices that seek to improve productivity as well as cut down on input costs.

HOW IT PROVIDES AN ALTERNATIVE

→ It stresses use of organic manure.

→ Integrated pest management (IPM) instead of chemical pesticides. e.g. Okra with cotton plant

→ Seeds soaked in jaggery and cow urine to enhance productivity.

→ It avoids taking loans as far as possible for agricultural inputs and using available material.

→ The plant remains are itself used instead of buying feed.

However, it has its limitations in replacing capital and chemical

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intensive agriculture:

→ cannot combat all pests naturally.

→ Productivity increases are upto a point.

→ Large scale production using ZBNF may not be possible because of need of heavy investment in labor, tractors, etc.

ZBNF is being succesfully practiced in Andhra, Karnataka, etc. and should be expanded to alternate farm distress

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6. Marine life is facing 'irreparable damage' from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year. In this context, examine the implications of plastic pollution on marine ecosystem and suggest some measures for addressing this problem. **(150 words) 10**

समुद्री जीवन, प्रति वर्ष समुद्र में पहुँचने वाले लाखों टन प्लास्टिक कचरे के कारण 'अपूरणीय क्षति' का सामना कर रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए और इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Plastic waste is a growing threat as evidenced by the theme of 2019 environment day being 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

IMPLICATIONS

→ Plastic often breaks down into microplastics due to radiation further harming marine ecosystem.

→ Plastic is often swallowed by marine life leading to suffocation, bioaccumulation.

→ Toxic chemicals like Bisphenol A may be leached.

→ May increase opacity of water, reducing light for photosynthesis.

→ The odour may attract harmful microorganisms

MEASURES

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→ Proper collection and segregation at source.

→ Phasing out single use plastics as these are harder to biodegrade

→ Properly implementing Extended Producers responsibility and increasing thickness of plastic bags to 50 micron.

→ using alternatives like jute bags

→ Increasing awareness among people regarding ill effects of plastic pollution.

India's pledge to phase out single use plastics by 2022 is a positive step in this regard.

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7. Write a short note on the evolution of Bharat Stage norms in India. Also discuss the significance and challenges posed by the planned introduction of BS-VI norms in India from the year 2020. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में भारत स्टेज मानकों के विकास पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, वर्ष 2020 से भारत में BS-VI मानकों को योजनाबद्ध रूप से लागू किए जाने के महत्व और उसमें आने वाली चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Bharat Stage norms refer to emission standards for internal combustion vehicles, based on the Euro standards.

EVOLUTION

→ SC mandated adoption of BS IV and phasing out non BS IV vehicles by 2018

→ BS V was skipped and BSVI will be adopted by 2020.

SIGNIFICANCE

→ lower sulphur and nitrogen oxide emission

→ Higher fuel efficiency (5%)

→ less particulate matter

→ will ensure move towards INDCs as well as SDG 4 of good health.

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CHALLENGES

→ vehicle upgradation costly for manufacturers.

→ Huge stock of unsold vehicles lying with manufacturers.

→ BS VI technologies are expensive which may hit consumers.

→ Proper implementation on national scale.

→ BS VI fuel availability must also be ensured by oil companies.

Proper implementation of BSVI norms must be done taking into consideration stakes of car manufacturers and citizens after discussion.

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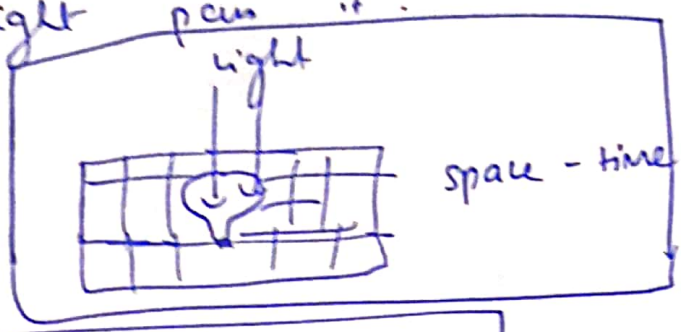
8. What are black holes? Highlight the challenges in imaging a black hole? How were these challenges overcome by the Event Horizon Telescope project? (150 words) 10

ब्लैक होल क्या हैं? ब्लैक होल के चित्रण (इमेजिंग) में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इवेंट होराइज़न टेलीस्कोप प्रोजेक्ट द्वारा इन चुनौतियों को कैसे दूर किया गया?

Black holes are point with infinite mass that with huge gravity that do not even let light pass it.



Challenges in imaging

→ It emits no light, then spotting them is difficult.

→ Areas of violent activity.

→ Blackholes are far away.

How overcome?

→ The area around the black hole is the event horizon. This region is visible as the high gravity of the black hole tries to suck everything into it.

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→ the Telescope recorded the event horizon and the events happening in it to 'visualise' the black hole

This is a breakthough and can help us better understand the origin and processes of the universe.

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9. While mentioning the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), discuss the challenges which are hindering the utilization of the ATT to its full potential. **(150 words) 10**

शस्त्र व्यापार संधि (ATT) के उद्देश्यों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए जो ATT को इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता से उपयोगित किये जाने में बाधक हैं।

In the world of ever-ant warfare, both conventional and non conventional, regulating their use is essential to ensure world peace.

Objectives of ATT

→ Ensure that weapons don't fall in hands of non state actors.

→ Non proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

→ Ensure transparent, regulated arms trade

→ Exporting only to countries that dont have a record of misuse of these weapons.

→ Ensuring weapons are used to ensure peace and not vitiate the atmosphere.

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Challenges

→ Recommendations not binding.

→ Many countries refuse to join citing its discriminatory nature

→ Has failed to prevent weapons from falling into non state actors.

→ Countries regularly violate treaty

→ Often business concern of countries come in way.

Thus the need is for global consensus oriented treaty taking into account concern of members and world peace.

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10. Threats to internal security of India may be posed both through the communication networks and also to the networks. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps taken by the government in making the networks more secure. (150 words) 10

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को खतरा संचार नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से एवं स्वयं संचार नेटवर्कों को खतरा होने, दोनों ही प्रकार से हो सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, नेटवर्कों को अधिक सुरक्षित बनाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Communication networks refer to the interconnection between various communication devices to exchange resources or data.

Threats

- **To ~~com~~ Network**
  - terrorist acts
  - Disasters
  - Out dation
  - Naxalism
  - Cyber Attacks like Stuxnet on Iranian nuclear facility
- **Through Network**
  - Hacking
  - Fake news
  - Radicalization
  - cyber attack ~~e.g. Stuxnet~~
  - Cyber terrorism
  - Malware, espionage

Steps taken

→ Declaring cyber information architecture as critical infrastructure.

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-) IT Act, 2000 aims to prevent misuse of cyberspace.

-) RBI's mandate towards Data localisation aims to prevent misuse of financial data

-) Establishing CERT - In, CERT - NIC (for govt websites), state CERT

These measures must be supplemented by passing Data security and Data Privacy legislations (Justice BN Sikrishna committee)

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11. Highlight the importance and challenges related to integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in India. Mention some steps that can be taken for its smooth integration with the synchronized Indian grid. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में परिवर्तनीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (VRE) के एकीकरण के महत्व और इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। ऐसे कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए जो समक्रमिक (सिंक्रनाइज्ड) भारतीय ग्रिड के साथ इसके सहज एकीकरण के लिए उठाए जा सकते हैं।

variable renewable energy refers to sources like wind, ~~power~~ solar, hydro that vary with time.

IMPORTANCE

→ Huge potential : especially of wind and solar (being a tropical country)

→ Clean energy sources that can reduce our carbon foot print

→ Reducing cost in recent years

→ variable sources like rooftop solar can provide power to off-grid locations.

→ Important for fulfilling our NDCs.

CHALLENGES

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→ Cannot be fully relied on due to variability e.g. lack of solar energy at night.

→ Prices though reduced aren't as competitive as thermal.

→ Lack of proper storage leads to issues of intermittent supply.

→ High installation and maintenance costs of rooftop solar.

→ PPAs (power purchase agreement) often disregarded.

STEPS for smooth integration to grid

→ National Green Grid is a positive step in this regard.

→ Incentivising DISCOMs to integrate variable renewables into grids.

→ Setting up ~~two~~ renewable power clusters to new produce power to ~~have~~ incentivise integration into grids

→ Proper implementation of schemes like Solar Parks that provide ready made grid connections.

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→ Proper implementation of PPAs.

This will ensure a clean yet reliable supply of power.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. There have been arguments that India could fall into a 'middle income trap'. Explaining the phenomenon, highlight the reasons behind such arguments. How can India avoid it? (250 words) 15

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि भारत 'मध्यम आय पाश' में फंस सकता है। इस परिघटना की व्याख्या करते हुए, ऐसे तर्कों के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारत इससे किस प्रकार बच सकता है?

~~The Economic Survey 2019~~

The middle income trap refers to a situation wherein after a period of quick transition from a low income to a middle income group, a country fails to move towards becoming a high income country. e.g. Brazil

REASONS

→ Failure to upgrade technologies and processes of production to meet newer demands.

→ Being stuck in low productivity cycle.

→ Poor human capital in form of inadequate health, education and skill.

→ Increasing protectionism due to which

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developing countries may not be able to use export avenues to enhance incomes (how China did earlier)

→ High inequality in these nations leading to low domestic demand, poor skill, stifled investment and savings.

HOW CAN INDIA AVOID IT?

→ Upgrading our human capital via
- ↳ Skill India mission
- ↳ Proper primary, secondary, higher education
- ↳ Proper health facilities

→ Increasing investment via FDI, increasing ease of doing business.

→ Greater spending on R&D to shift to higher productivity sectors. Currently spending is only 0.67% of GDP.

→ Leveraging MSMEs to increasing production, employment and sustainable rise of incomes.

→ Leveraging service sector especially in field of exports and increasing prowess in

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

hardware sector

→ Greater diplomatic negotiations and signing trade agreements to enhance export avenues.

→ Increasing purchasing power of lower ung via schemes like MGNREGA, NHPS, PDS.

Thus more sustainable shift in our economy can help avoid the middle income trap.

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13. Highlighting its importance, discuss the major issues that plague effective monetary policy transmission in India. Also, mention the steps taken by RBI to improve it. (250 words) 15

भारत में मौद्रिक नीति संचरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन प्रमुख मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो इसकी प्रभाविता को बाधित करते हैं। साथ ही, इसमें सुधार के लिए RBI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Monetary Policy (MP) refers to the steps by which the RBI controls price and interest rates, and how other growth metrics get affected by them.

ISSUES

→ Lag in MP transmission.

→ Banks often cite high NPAs as reason for not passing rate cuts, while rate increases are passed immediately.

→ In India, banks are more dependent on deposits for funds and not RBI borrowings, so RBI repo rate changes don't affect them much.

→ Earlier methodologies like Base rate often gave much discretion to banks.

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→ MCLR was cited by many banks as cumbersome

→ Banks may not pass on rate cuts due to political pressure also.

This often leads to a situation wherein RBI may fail to achieve its monetary policy objectives of controlling inflation, boosting/ curbing lending as their policy isn't reflected in steps taken by banks.

STEPS taken by RBI

→ Change from base rate to MCLR in order to make rate setting more transparent.

→ Now, it has been changed to external benchmark rate whereby banks can choose any rate to align to the repo.

→ RBI has used its moral persuasion strategy to persuade banks.

→ RBI may not help banks that don't pass on its rate cuts.

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RBI has conducted Asset Quality reviews, coordinated with govt for steps like Projet Sashakt to help banks curb NPAs so they can transmit monetary policy better.

Effective MP transmission can help realise the objectives of inflation control and sustainable growth.

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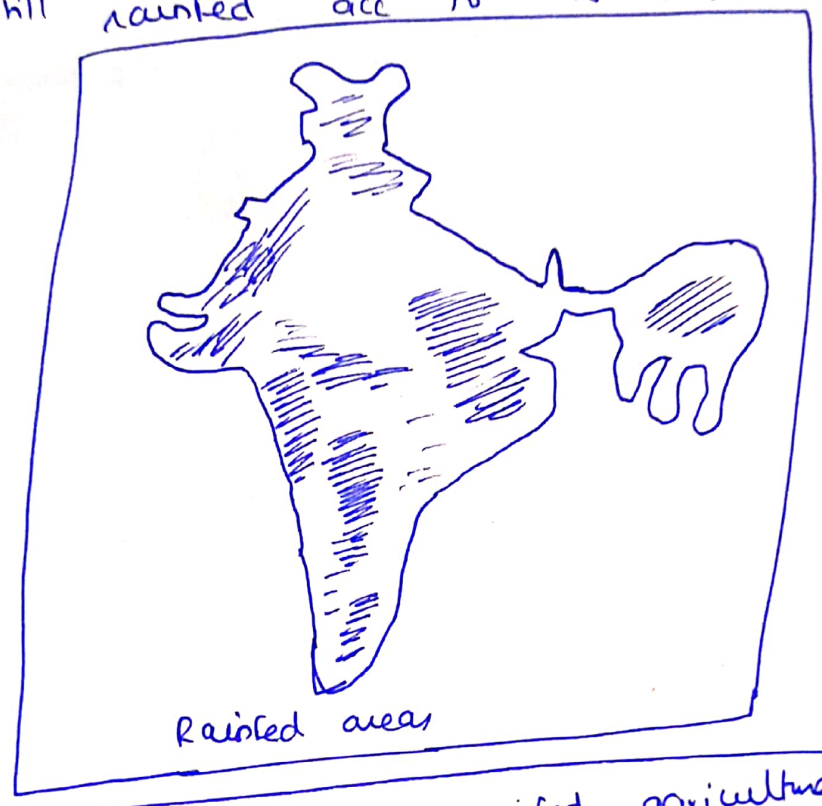
14. Highlight the constraints faced by rainfed agriculture in India. Discuss some agronomic practices that can be adopted for stabilizing agricultural production in rainfed areas. (250 words) 15

भारत में वर्षा सिंचित कृषि में आने वाली बाधाओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन को स्थायित्व प्रदान करने हेतु अपनाई जा सकने वाली कुछ कृषि-वैज्ञानिक पद्धतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Around 60% of Indian agriculture is still rainfed acc to NSSO.



CONSTRAINTS faced by rainfed agriculture

→ Prone to droughts, crop failures.

→ cannot use latest seeds, lot of fertilisers, as these require regular water supply.

→ Low productivity.

→ Reduced cropping intensity because

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

or lack of water.

→ Rainfed agriculture often leads to volatile incomes increasing farmers stress, suicides.

→ Low productivity reduces bargaining power due to which they are exploited by middlemen.

AGRONOMIC SOLUTIONS

→ Growing hardy crops like millet, jackfruit.

→ Watershed management in form of Johads (Rajasthan), Kulhs (Himachal), etc

→ Practices like Zero Budget Natural Farming

→ Using mixed farming to supplement income.

→ Using less water intensive crops or growing supplementary crops to avoid poverty. e.g. millets

→ Mulching, bunds to avoid erosion that reduces productivity.

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These measures must be supplemented by emergency employment measures like MGNREGA to avoid distress.

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15. Despite the steps taken by the government in recent years, a number of problems continue to persist in the urea sector in India. Discuss. What reforms should be taken to address the persisting problems?

(250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के बावजूद, भारत में यूरिया क्षेत्र में कई समस्याएं निरंतर बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। मौजूदा समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु क्या सुधार किए जाने चाहिए?

Urea is the most used nitrogen based fertiliser in India.

PROBLEMS

→ Indiscriminate use of urea because of subsidy. Proper fertiliser application ratio of 4:2:1 (Urea : Phosphate : Potash) is ~~6.7~~ 6.7:2.4:1.6.

→ Urea isn't covered under nutrient based subsidy leading to overproduction

→ Urea is often diverted for alternate uses like in factories

→ Urea smuggling to Nepal, Bangladesh is a concern.

→ Problem of richer farmers garnering most benefits of subsidy

→ Tunneling via which only designated companies can import urea leading

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to supply fluctuation.

GOVERNMENT STEPS

→ Economic Survey recommended neem coated urea to reduce diversion and excess usage.

→ Soil Health Cards, Kisan Vigyan Kendras to tell farmers how much fertiliser to use.

→ Stricter patrol to check cross border smuggling.

→ DBT in subsidy to prevent ~~misuse~~ leakages.

REFORMS NEEDED

→ Bringing urea under nutrient based subsidy.

→ Better implementation of neem coating of urea.

→ Removing tunneling to improve supply.

→ Checking diversion and smuggling via greater vigilance.

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→ Promoting organic farming to reduce urea usage.

→ Incentivising efficient urea producers over those who merely produce more to get more subsidy.

This will ensure judicious use of urea to sustainably enhance productivity.

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16. What is Access and Benefit Sharing? Explain how it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, mention the different global and national level mechanisms for ensuring Access and Benefit Sharing. (250 words) 15

पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण (एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग) क्या है? यह जैव विविधता के संधारणीय उपयोग में किस प्रकार सहायक है, स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण सुनिश्चित करने हेतु वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विभिन्न प्रणालियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Access and Benefit sharing refers to the environmental principle aimed at ensuring equitable access while ensuring benefits to the traditional holders of the knowledge.

How it aids in sustainable biodiversity use?

→ Ensures that biodiversity isn't indiscriminately exploited by giving traditional knowledge holders a say in its management.

→ Protection of livelihood rights of community.

→ Ensuring commensurate benefits to other knowledge users like companies

→ Proper guidelines for discriminate and sustainable use of knowledge.

→ Ensuring benefits to community further

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incentivises them to protect it.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

→ Nagoya Protocol for access and benefit sharing (ABS)

→ Kuala Lumpur Supplementary protocol for ABS

→ NGOs like Tribal rights International have campaigned for proper use of community knowledge.

→ TRIPS recognises knowledge rights

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

→ Forest Rights Act, 2006 aims at ABS. to Forest dwellers.

→ Geographical Indications Act, 1999 recognises that benefits must go to knowledge holders.

→ Patent Act. e.g, US company trying to patent Basmati rice was struck down.

→ 5th schedule, 6th schedule, PESA

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gives communities access and benefits of forest resources.

This principle can be supplemented by properly digitizing various kinds of knowledge and granting consultative approach to their use.

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17. Stating the significance, discuss the challenges in achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure. Suggest some ways for mainstreaming it in the development paradigm. (250 words) 15

अवसंरचनाओं का आपदाओं के प्रति सुनम्य (रेजिलिएंट) होने के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए। इसे विकास प्रतिमान की मुख्यधारा में लाने हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Disaster resilience of infrastructure refers to the ability of infrastructure to withstand heavy damages caused by disaster.

SIGNIFICANCE

→ Ensures protection of critical infra like telecom, hospitals, nuclear installations

→ Reduce disaster vulnerability

→ Reduce loss of lives and property.

→ Promotes sustainable development by ensuring that a disaster doesn't set us back by many years.

CHALLENGES

→ Fragmented approach to ensuring disaster resilience of infra. e.g. lack of coordination between centre, states and local governments in sustainably managing disaster

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→ Expensive exercise of increasing infrastructure resilience.

→ Lack of awareness regarding specific disaster vulnerability so resilience can be built.

→ Unplanned development makes making resilience adjustments difficult.

→ Decentralized construction industry and lack of strict guidelines to ensure resilient infra.

→ Lack of enough institutional mechanism to ensure sustained discussion on improving resilience through planning, etc.

WAYS to mainstream it in development

Structural

→ Proper building codes according to specific region wise, hazard wise vulnerability.

→ Critical infrastructure must get highest priority. e.g. Telecom tower on high ground in flood prone area.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ 'Build Back Better' in form of resilient infra after disaster.

NON STRUCTURAL

→ Micro and Macro zonation of disaster

→ Coordinated approach and defined chain of command in disaster management

→ Identify vulnerable section and make plan for them first

→ Mainstreaming it in major policies e.g. Telecom Policy talks about creating disaster resilient telecom infra

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18. Highlighting the significance of data localization for India, discuss various challenges associated with data localization. (250 words) 15
भारत के लिए डेटा के स्थानीयकरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, डेटा के स्थानीयकरण से जुड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Data localization refers to the storage and often processing of a country's citizen information in physical servers located in that country itself.

SIGNIFICANCE

-) With growing presence of IT giants in India, lot of data of Indian is with them. Its wise use has to be ensured.

-) Threat to privacy ~~by to~~ due to personal details

-) Cybersecurity vulnerability. Kaspersky labs rank India as 3rd most vulnerable country to cyber attacks

-) ~~Lot of~~ May lead to more investments in India in form of companies setting up data centres and offices here.

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→ Greater tax collection due to the above reason.

→ Since data is the new oil, India wants to harness it best and not allow foreign companies to use it.

→ Help in getting data for investigations

CHALLENGES

→ India's ITES and BPO sector are heavily reliant on free flow of data and this may adversely affect them.

→ May hamper ease of doing business.

→ May lead to a domino effect whereby other countries do the same

→ ~~Ex may but~~ Investigation may still be hampered as access to data may still be difficult. e.g. Whatsapp encrypted messages.

→ Because India is poor in hardware, may need to import server components

→ May dilute our stand on international

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platform against protectionism.

WAY FORWARD

India should avoid a knee jerk reaction and assess the cost-benefit first. Data localization of only critical data can be ensured and promote it via steps like granting infrastructure status to data centres.

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19. Money Laundering as a socio economic offence is a menace especially for developing countries like India. Comment. What measures have been taken at the domestic and international levels to deal with this menace?

(250 words) 15

एक सामाजिक आर्थिक अपराध के रूप में धन शोधन विशेषकर भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के लिए एक खतरा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस खतरे से निपटने हेतु घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

Money laundering refers to the process by which illegally obtained money be enters the economy as clean money.

Steps
↓
Placement
↓
Layering
↓
Integration

How its a menace for developing nations

→ It leads to continuation of illegal activities.

→ By investing in companies, they get a stronghold there which may detract foreign investors.

→ May invest in political parties leading to politician - criminal nexus.

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→ Further exacerbates inequality

→ Money laundering may be used to finance terrorism. e.g. in Kashmir

→ leads to loss of tax revenue for already cash strapped governments.

→ leads to subversion of rule of law, equality, etc

→ May further increase social tensions in developing countries when people stay poor and see corruption

STEPS TAKEN

DOMESTIC

→ Prevention of Money laundering Act, 2002 has been amended to make it more stringent.

→ ~~Signed~~ Recently many shell companies were closed down.

→ KYC requirements for high transactions, P-note investments.

→ Place of effective management clause in

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DTAA

→ ~~Rs~~ Cash transaction over 2 lac made 100% deductible.

→ RERA to control money laundering in real estate.

→ INTERNATIONAL

→ G7's Financial Action Task Force monitors suspicious transaction.

→ G20's BEPS measures.

→ Asia Pacific Group on money laundering.

India needs to define Money laundering as a stand alone offence acc to G7 stipulations rather than as a predicate offence

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20. The primary motive of terrorism differs from that of organised crime but there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

आतंकवाद का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य संगठित अपराध के उद्देश्य से भिन्न होता है, किन्तु दोनों के मध्य एक सहजीवी संबंध पाया जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Terrorism may be defined as use/threat of use of violence, often involving violence that leads to social tension, mental trauma, etc.

How Primary motives of organised crime and terrorism differ?

→ Terrorism is aimed at:
- Striking fear in minds of civilians e.g. Manchester bombing
- Destabilise state e.g. ISIS in Syria
- Weapon to fulfill state's geopolitical ambitions. e.g. ISI sponsored terrorism
- Causing social tensions
- Controlling resources

→ Organised crime is aimed at:
- Earning money illicitly e.g. drug trafficking
- Taking advantage of vulnerability e.g. woman trafficking

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- Increase own power over society e.g. Escobar's drug cartel made societal donations
- Hiding laundered money
- Gaining influence over a country's politics, finance.

However there exists a symbiotic relation between the 2 as:

→ Proceeds of organised crime are often used to fund terrorism.

→ May often directly be done by terrorist organisations to earn funds, get arms.

→ Both aim at crippling society and gaining undemocratic control over it.

→ Terrorism and organised crime both create law and order problem thus creating conducive atmosphere for each other to flourish.

Thus a holistic approach is needed to

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tackle than which must first begin with adopting the CCIT.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH KUMAR		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	298400
Center	ONLINE	Date	16-9-19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	-
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. **(150 words) 10**

नीति (NITI) आयोग की संरचना और प्रकार्यों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसकी समकालीन प्रासंगिकता पर भी टिप्पणी कीजिए।

NITI Aayog was formed via an executive resolution replacing the Planning Commission.

Structure

~~→ Team India Wing~~

→ Headed by Prime Minister, CEO is appointed by government.

→ Team India Wing consisting of chief minister and other state representatives.

→ Research and Technical Wing

Function

→ Provide information for evidence based decision making.

→ Promote bottom up approach by progressively adding plan from village level.

→ Ensuring cooperative and competitive

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federation.

→ Promote climate of innovation in the country

→ Shift to 'Bharat' approach to development

Contemporary relevance

→ Hires experts to give advice on technical matters.

→ Bottom up approach is in tune with people's aspirations.

→ Atal Innovation Mission has helped build innovation ecosystem.

→ Reports like Healthy states Progressive India, etc. give government vital information

→ It also engages with world organisations (e.g. WHO for SATH) to ensure international inputs.

Next step is to give it constitutional status.

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2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. **(150 words) 10**

न्यायालयों में लंबित वादों को कम करने के लिए फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट को स्थापित करने की कार्यप्रणाली की आलोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

Fast Track Courts (FTCs) were set up to provide speedy yet effective justice, especially for long pending cases.

ADVANTAGES

→ Reduces burden on traditional courts.

→ Has helped in expeditious clearance of certain cases.

→ Expected not to follow cumbersome procedures

But this hasn't happened in reality as:

→ They haven't followed a uniform, faster approach leading to delays.

→ Depend on states for funding, thus leading to shortage.

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→ Don't have separate infrastructure, judges, thus leading to delays.

→ Inadequate no. of FTCs set up. often 1-2 judges handle many cases.

→ Adhoc nature of functioning.

Thus steps like:

→ Allocating more funds

→ Providing separate infrastructure

→ Using retired judges

→ Using ICT, c

are needed to make FTCs more effective.

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3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. (150 words) 10

भारत में निचली अदालतों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और उनकी उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने हेतु उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Lower Judiciary comprises the courts below the Supreme and High courts.

CHALLENGES

→ Pendency of cases : 2.93 crore (as per National Judicial Data Grid)

→ Fundy : Mere 0.09% of GDP is spent on Judiciary

→ Above leads to lack of adequate infrastructure

→ shortage of around 25% of judges.

→ Allegations of corruption.

→ Quality of judgements as judges get little time for a given case.

→ MEASURES

→ Economic Survey 2018/19 recommends Indian court & Tribunal Services to

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handle administrative matters.

→ Implementing e-courts in lower courts in mission mode.

→ Life cycle analysis of cases to reduce pendency.

→ All India Judicial services as recommended by Shetty Committee.

→ 2nd ARC also recommends better allocation of funds by centre and states to lower judiciary.

This will ensure speedier, more effective justice as envisioned in the DPSPs.

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4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. (150 words) 10

कानूनों की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार के लिए विधि-निर्माण पश्चात् संवीक्षा की प्रक्रिया को औपचारिक बनाने की आवश्यकता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

The Parliament, State legislature have been empowered by the ~~stat~~ constitution to make laws for running the country.

Need for post-legislative scrutiny

→ Pre legislative scrutiny is done by various committees, parliament, public comments on draft Bill.

→ However, this needs follow up by post legislative scrutiny by parliamentary committees, citizens, NGOs.

→ will ensure continuous scrutiny of legislation

→ will give government inputs regarding implementation of the law on ground.

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→ will provide responsive, people oriented governance.

→ Enhance public awareness and participation regarding law.

→ Prevent social conflicts that may arise. e.g. discussion on Forest Rights Act to address concerns of stakeholders.

This formalisation can be done in form of committees with representatives from various sections of society, social audit, etc.

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5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार लाने में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की क्षमता की विवेचना कीजिए।

Artificial Intelligence refers to algorithms performing tasks generally assigned to humans.

Potential in improving e-governance

→ Saves time : e.g. using AI to calculate land prices for compensation

→ Saves cost in term of human resource. ~~e.g. A~~

→ check corruption : e.g. AI for data mining to check fraudulent transactions.

→ Efficiency : e.g. AI can check shortage of funds via PFMS and inform government.

→ People centric governance : e.g. auto verification of documents via Digi locker.

→ Improved verification of claims : e.g.

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AI to check insurance claims in a region.

Thus AI can revolutionize e-governance but it must be fully implemented only after ensuring proper data security (Justice BN Srikrishna committee)

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6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

लोक शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली में विभिन्न सुधारों के बावजूद, उनकी प्रभावशीलता सीमित बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Grievance redressal mechanism (GRMs) are sin qua non for people centric governance.

Reforms in GRMs

→ More laws now come with inbuilt GRMs. e.g. new consumer protection Act

→ Easy contacts via helpline number.

→ Dedicating separate officials on full time basis for GRMs.

→ Putting consumer representatives in GRMs.

→ Publicising them

→ GRMs in vernacular languages.

However their effectiveness remains limited:

→ Inadequate GRMs.

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→ Functioning is often delayed, unresponsive. e.g. consumer courts

→ Awareness regarding GRMs is still low.

→ Adhoc nature of their functioning still persists.

→ Culture of responsive and accountable governance still not fully imbibed within government officials.

Steps like CPGRAMS are positive steps but more steps like institutionalizing GRMs in all acts, bodies is needed

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7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में महिलाओं और बच्चों की तस्करी में योगदान देने वाले कारकों की व्याख्या करते हुए, इससे निपटने के लिए हाल के दिनों में उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Article 23 prohibits trafficking of humans for any purpose.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

→ Poverty due to which people are lured to sell their children, or fall into trap of agents.

→ Vulnerability of women and children

→ Improper enforcement of laws.

→ Booming prostitution, organ trade industry.

→ Child labour is another reason

→ Agents use deception and fraud to target gullible targets.

→ Lack of awareness regarding rights, mechanism to tackle this menace.

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RECENT STEPS

→ Prohibition of Trafficking Bill that sought to impose stringent punishments on traffickers.

→ POCSO Act against trafficking of children Act.

→ MoUs with neighbour, France to combat trafficking.

→ Stricter border patrols to prevent cross border trafficking.

Trafficking Bill needs to be passed after greater consultations to stop this menace.

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8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में रोगाणुवाहक-जनित रोग (VBDs) महामारी की तरह उभरकर सामने आये हैं, अतः उन कारकों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिनके कारण इनका उद्भव हुआ है। साथ ही, इनके प्रभावी नियंत्रण और प्रबंधन हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Vector Borne Diseases are those spread by vectors like mosquitoes, flies, etc. e.g. recent outbreak of Nipah virus in Kerala, Zika in Rajasthan, Japanese Encephalitis in UP.

FACTORS

→ Unhygienic surrounding that provide breeding ground for vectors.

→ Inadequate fumigation drives to kill vectors.

→ Low immunity due to poverty

→ Lack of proper Primary Health care to tackle the menace

→ Early detection is an issue.

→ Lack of awareness regarding symptoms, causes, etc among people.

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MEASURES

→ Proper implementation of National Vector Borne disease control programme.

→ Swachh Bharat to imbibe culture of cleanliness, waste management

→ Using genetic engineering. e.g. Wolbachia bacteria to sterilise mosquitoes

→ Proper nutrition via NFSA to boost immunity.

→ Opening 1.5 lac Health and Wellness Centres, Jan Aushadhi to ensure quick treatment.

A 'One Health' approach is needed to ensure integrated tackling of this menace.

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9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

वर्षों की उपेक्षा के बाद, तेजी से विकसित हो रही क्षेत्रीय रणनीतिक वास्तविकताएं अब भारत और इंडोनेशिया को और अधिक घनिष्ठता से अपनी नीतियों को समन्वित करने के लिए बाध्य कर रही हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India and Indonesia share commonalities of large Muslim population, cultural connect, democracies and aspirations to be regional powers.

YEARS of NEGLECT

→ Although Indo-Indonesia relations in the beginning had a good start as India protested against Dutch colonisation, both leaders supported NAM, but they soon stagnated.

→ While Indonesia moved to a open economy via ASEAN, we remained closed and our constant conflict with neighbours didn't bode well.

ALIGNING of Regional strategic realities

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→ Both are wary of an increasingly assertive china. e.g South China sea issue.

→ With growing centrality of Indo-Pacific - both countries realise need for cooperation.

→ India emerging as economic power and opening up economy, has drawn both closer.

→ With growing radicalization in both countries, cooperation is a must.

This has led to cooperation like

→ ~~Chau~~ Sabang port in Indonesia, naval exercise

→ ASEAN - India connect

→ MOUs on defence, terrorism, economy.

→

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10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss. (150 words) 10

संबंधों को पुन: स्थापित करने के कई प्रयासों के बावजूद, भारत-नेपाल द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में विभिन्न अवरोध निरंतर चिंता का कारण बने हुए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indo-Nepal ties are defined by the Indo-Nepal friendship treaty.

ATTEMPTS at resetting ties

→ India has lowered its stance on Madhesi issue telling them to follow law of land.

→ We have tried to improve implementation of our project there and extend line of credits to reduce loan dependence.

→ Invited new Nepal PM for visit.

→ Not using China factor ~~in~~ conditional for every discussion.

However barriers still exist:

→ Perception of India acting like a big brother.

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→ Overreliance of India leads to insecurity.

→ China Factor. Recently Unara ~~to~~ rail link to China, road construction, Nepal supporting BRI are issues.

→ Debt burden to India.

→ Events of racism against Nepali nation have sullied Indian image.

→ Blockade during Madhesi issue is still a thorn in relations.

→ Allegations of Indian interference in election by opposition.

India must follow the Gujral doctrine to ensure a politically stable, harmonious relation.

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11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. (250 words) 15

दबाव समूहों और हित समूहों के मध्य अंतर का वर्णन कीजिए। उदाहरणों को उद्धृत करते हुए, उन तरीकों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से दबाव समूह भारत में सरकारी निर्णयों और नीति-निर्माण को प्रभावित करते हैं।

Pressure groups (PG) refers to an organised group of people that seek to influence public opinion or government action. e.g. ADR

Interest group (IG) refers to groups that promote certain 'interests' of a set of people. e.g. FICCI

PGs	IGs
• Organised / less organised	• Organised
• can have broad objectives e.g. India against corruption	• Narrow objectives
• All PGs are not IGs	• All IGs are PGs
• May seek to mobilise public opinion on an issue	• Not necessarily.

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WAYS in which PGs influence policy making

→ Influencing public opinion to put pressure on the government.
e.g. India against corruption

→ Influencing administrators

→ Influencing MPs via lobbying.
e.g. FICCI is consulted while policy making.

→ Influencing parliamentarians

→ Provide vital information that helps in evidence based policy making.
e.g. Observer Research Foundation provides information on foreign policy issues

→ Raised awareness among people regarding rights. e.g. MKSS for RTI

→ PGs may also contest elections not to win, but just increase

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their popularity.

→ Influential pressure groups like business ones may even use money power to influence policy.

Pressure groups are a vital way for groups to get their views across in a democracy. However better accountability is needed.

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12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

भारत में स्थानीय स्व-शासन की संस्थाओं द्वारा समाना की जा रही समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, जमीनी स्तर पर सार्वजनिक वस्तुओं और सेवाओं के वितरण की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार लाने हेतु किए जा सकने वाले उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Local self government institution were established by the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts to bring democracy at the grass roots.

ISSUES

→ Funds : → Depend on devolution
→ Grants are usually of tied nature
→ Thin resource generating domain

→ Functions → States don't devolve enough power
→ Political and bureaucratic interference in functioning

→ Functionaries : ill trained

→ Conceptual vagueness : as to whether they represent democracy at grass

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root level, or institution of LSG or administrative divisions

→ Multiplicity of agencies especially in case of urban LSGs (municipality, cantonment boards, etc)

→ Parastatals often undermine their authority.

→ Improper aggregation of local plans then no proper district development plan can come up.

MEASURES to improve PSD

→ Funds
- → widening tax domains
- → Rational user charges
- → innovative financing mechanism like municipal bonds, tourist fees

→ Devolution of more functions.

→ Training modules for LSG functionaries

→ 2nd ARC recommended co production of community services like waste management to improve PSD.

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→ NITI Aayog recommends giving charge of power, water to urban LSGs.

→ Outcome audits to be institutionalized to check performance of LSG bodies.

→ District admin can help in capacity building of LSGs.

→ Grievance redressal mechanism with Gram Panchayats

This will ensure responsive, people centric PSD transforming citizen into demanding citizen.

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13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. (250 words) 15

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 में हालिया संशोधन इस अधिनियम को कमजोर बनाएगा और सूचना आयुक्तों के प्राधिकार को क्षीण करेगा। चर्चा कीजिए।

RTI Act, 2005 was passed to bring 'sunshine' to administration and bring a new age of transparency.

RECENT AMENDMENT

→ Information commissioner not to be equal to election commissioner in stature.

→ Their pay ~~and~~ to be decided completely by government.

→ Their term also by government.

How it undermines authority and weakens Act

→ Affects security of tenure.

→ Independence of Information commissioner will be affected as they will be at mercy of ~~Election~~

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government.

→ Right to Information may be delegated to governments wheins.

Thus a holistic discussion is needed in order to strengthen RTI by:

→ Giving constitutional status to Information commission.

→ Regular appointments

→ ~~For~~ Stringent punishments for non disclosure

→ Removal process should be by appointment committee

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14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में परिसीमन की प्रक्रिया को रेखांकित कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में परिसीमन की प्रक्रिया को लेकर होने वाले वाद-विवादों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Delimitation refers to the act of reorganizing constituencies such that :

→ Ratio between No of seats in state and population remains same throughout country.

→ Ratio between seats and population in ~~cons~~ constituency remains same throughout state

This is done by the delimitation commission as established by Delimitation Act as per power of Parliament under Article 327.

DEBATES

→ Outdated : Some argue that freezing population at 1971 levels is unrepresentative of present levels.

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→ It goes against principle of 1 person 1 vote 1 value. e.g. a value of vote in Chandni Chowk may be lesser than one in Darjeeling.

→ Especially after 61st amendment, 1988, number of voters have increased drastically.

→ Other say freezing at 1971 levels is valid and helps incentivise states that have taken population control measures.
e.g. Kerala, Tamil Nadu

→ Another debate is regarding size of house after delimitation.
It is argued that the Lok Sabha is already unmanageable, and may become more so.

→ A debate is there regarding how delimitation of constituencies among states - how SECs have

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No say in it.

Delimitation should thus be done only after taking into consideration interests of all stakeholders.

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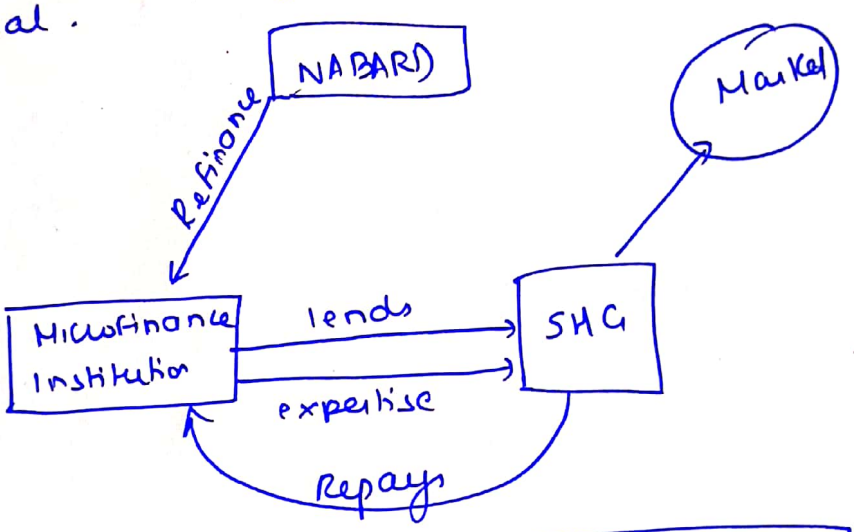
15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. **(250 words) 15**

स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHGs) ग्रामीण विकास के वाहक हैं तथा ये हाशिए पर मौजूद समूहों के उत्थान में सहायता करते हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, SHGs द्वारा सामना की जा रही बाधाओं का उल्लेख कीजिए। इन बाधाओं को कैसे दूर किया जा सकता है।

SHGs refer to self governed groups of people with similar socio economic background who have come together for a common goal.



VEHICLES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

→ SHGs are heavily involved in agri activities, selling products. (e.g. Lijjat Papad)

→ Help in financial inclusion

→ Improve bargaining power

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→ Help in fulfilling economic (entrepreneur), social (education, health) needs of members.

UPLIFTMENT OF MARGINALIZED

→ Usually women are members.
→ financially empower women, reducing patriarchy.
→ SCs, STs also form major part
→ Gives unbanked access to formal credit.
→ ~~EAA~~ SHGs are in large quantities in rural areas thus giving them access to local economic chain.

PROBLEMS

→ often credit is inadequate and they still need to depend on informal sources.
→ lack of product diversification in form of micro insurance.
→ Most SHGs (48%) are in South India.

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→ Most SHGs are in agricultural activities

→ SHGs may still be dominated by influential group.

→ Politicization of SHGs

MEASURES

→ Training of members in financial account maintenance, etc

→ Gender sensitization of officials dealing with women SHGs

→ Product diversification

→ Increasing awares regarding SHGs as a tool of economic empowerment.

SHGs are a monumental step in empowering the lower rung of society and achieving multiple SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

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16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. (250 words) 15

शौचालयों का निर्माण स्वच्छ भारत के समाधान का केवल एक भाग है, अतः अब समय आ गया है कि स्वच्छ भारत मिशन अन्य पहलुओं पर भी अधिक बल दे। चर्चा कीजिए।

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched to fulfill Gandhiji's dream of a clean India.

CONSTRUCTION OF TOILETS

→ 7 crore toilets have been built till now.

→ Twin pit toilets are being promoted.

How toilets are a solution

→ Gender empowerment as women don't need to risk their dignity to go out to relieve at night

→ Removing open defecation reduces chances of diseases, aesthetical spoilage of landscape.

However toilets are merely one

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part of the solution and equal emphasis is needed on other facets like:

→ Solid Waste management:

Although 100% collection in 1/5th wards is done, more action is needed. (also processing needed)

→ Eradicating Manual scavenging:

Recent death of 5 scavengers in Delhi shows work needs to be done

→ Sustaining behaviour change

Although 94% of people that have toilets use them, continued efforts are needed to guarantee usage. ODF + and ODF ++ are to incentivise sustained change.

→ ~~Exacti~~ Sewer networks need to be built. e.g. recently built in PPP mode at Varanasi

→ Bringing a culture of Swachhata among government departments, private

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organisations, people.

- Waste to energy to incentivise Swachhata.

Moreover as Economic Survey 2018/19 recommends we must have towards Sundar, Swastha and Swachha Bharat to achieve SDG 6, 4.

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17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. **(250 words) 15**

मिशन इन्द्रधनुष की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। इसके कार्यान्वयन में मिशन को किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है? संपूर्ण टीकाकरण प्राप्ति की दिशा में प्रगति करने हेतु इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Mission Indradhanush refers to an evidence based vaccine intervention to prevent 12 vaccine preventable diseases. (e.g. Diptheria, Tetanus)

Salient Features

→ Aim at eliminating the disease threat by 90% by 2020.

→ Action against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.

→ Engagement with ASHA workers, local officials to ensure coverage.

→ ~~Ex~~ Monitoring vaccination coverage

→ Aims at demand creation for vaccination.

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Challenges in implementation

→ Resistance to vaccination among some groups. e.g. Tribals

→ Lack of awareness regarding benefits of vaccination.

→ Ill trained officials at local levels

→ Lack of proper monitoring mechanism to check vaccination coverage.

→ Improper supply of vaccines especially in remote areas.

MEASURES

→ Improving awareness regarding benefits of vaccination through mass media, gram panchayats.

→ Training modules for capacity building at local level officials.

→ Making available vaccines via Jan Aushadhi centres, Health and Wellness Centres.

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→ Using mechanism like MCTS (Mother Child Tracking Mechanism) for better monitoring.

→ Greater R&D on vaccines and increasing coverage of diseases.

Progress has been made as vaccine coverage has increased to 68%. (2018) but more steps like above are needed to ensure Article 47 of raising health of people.

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18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में बदलती आर्थिक और जनसांख्यिकीय संरचना के आलोक में कौशल सृजन के महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संबंध में, स्किल इंडिया मिशन अपने अधिदेश में कितना सफल रहा है।

skilling refers to equipping a person with certain skillset to perform a particular task.

IMPORTANCE

→ In light of changing demographic structure

- India's population has highest number of youth, thus their skilling is essential to realise demographic dividend.
- Number of dependents will increase, thus skilling can prevent them from being an economic burden. • 12 million enter labor force every year

→ changing economic structure

- With our service sector dominated economy, skilling essential.
- With our target of Make in India, skilling is needed to propel manufacturing.

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- With people moving away from agriculture, skilling is necessary to maintain food security

SKILL INDIA's SUCCESS

→ Aimed at skilling 500 million people by 2022, building more skilling centres, recognition of prior learning, employment oriented skilling.

→ Achievements

- Skilled 7 million people every year on average
- Many ITIs, SSCs have been set up.
- Has organized Skill Melas, opened online skilling modules.
- Skilling initiatives via schemes like USTTAD, Nai Roshni have helped in empowerment.

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However more needs to be done:

→ Pace of skilling inadequate

→ ~~One~~ Incentivising private sector in skilling.

→ Reforming SSCs as per Sharda Prasad committee

→ Skills on wheels initiative (like in Brazil) to ensure skilling in remote areas.

This can ensure achievement of SDG 1 and 8.

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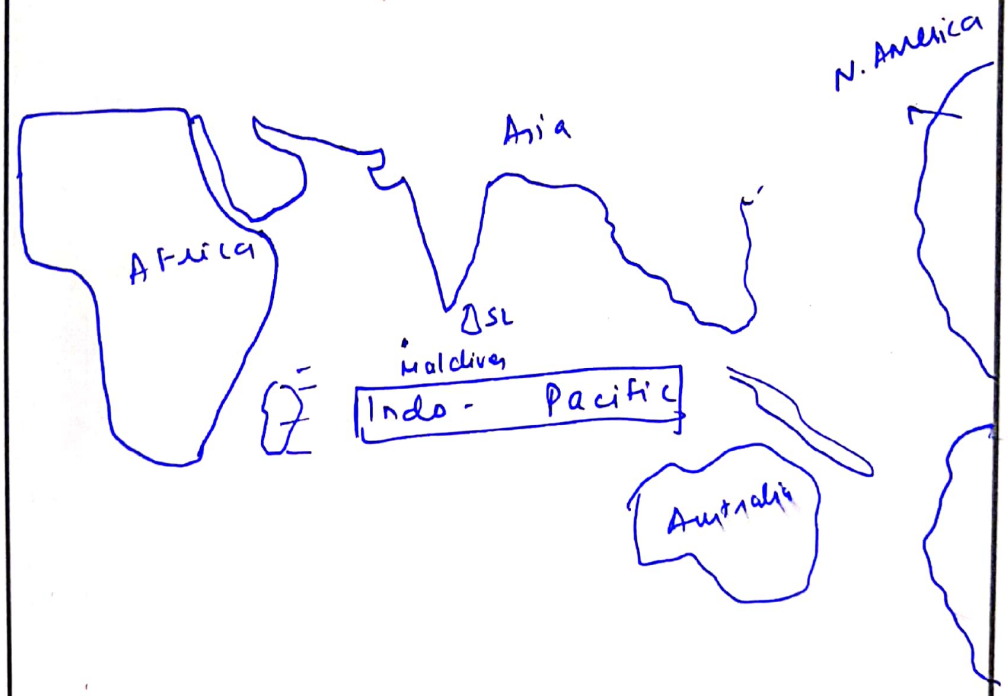
19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. **(250 words) 15**

आपके अनुसार वे कौन-से कारण हैं जिन्होंने हाल ही में भारत को MEA के तहत एक समर्पित भारत-प्रशांत प्रभाग सृजित करने के लिए प्रेरित किया? साथ ही, भारत-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत के समक्ष चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The Asia Pacific has recently been named the Indo Pacific signalling a shift in geo political construct.



Reason why India created a dedicated Indo-Pacific division:

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→ Realizes centrality of the Indo Pacific geopolitical construct.

→ Will ensure a convergent approach to the Indo-Pacific.

→ Can better reply to documents/statements regarding Indo-Pacific by other nations.

→ Indicates our vision of being a global power.

CHALLENGES

→ Lack of coherent strategy by countries regarding Indo-Pacific. It is seen more as a western construct to counter China.

→ China Factor: China's assertiveness in form of String of Pearls (bases at Sri Lanka, ~~state~~ Pakistan, etc), ~~South~~ pose a threat.

→ India's weakness to become a credible power and net security

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provides in the region because of constrained finance, unwilling neighbours.

→ Island states : strained relations with Seychelles (Assumption Island), Maldives are a threat in Indo pacific.

→ Non traditional threats like piracy, smuggling, sea terrorism

→ India isn't part of vital grouping to engage with countries in the region. e.g. APEC

→ Domestic politics whereby the notion of India as a 'junior' partner to the USA isn't liked.

Despite the significance of the construct, India needs to tread cautiously to ensure that it results in benefits to India and doesn't become a tool for western interests

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20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. **(250 words) 15**

SCO को एक सफल क्षेत्रीय समूह बनने हेतु, अपने सदस्यों के मध्य के द्विपक्षीय मतभेदों और उनके संबंधित भू-राजनीतिक अपेक्षाओं से उबरना होगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, यूरेशियाई क्षेत्र में भारत के हितों को बढ़ाने में SCO द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

India got admission to the SCO in 2018 thereby allowing it to better engage with ~~to~~ Eurasia.

CHALLENGES – Bilateral

→ Differences between India and Pakistan can hamstring the organisation.

→ Differences between India and China especially over BRI issue.

→ Difference may arise between Iran and India over in reducing Iran oil imports.

Various geopolitical calculations

→ Russia aims to use the group to show the west that it still has powerful friends like India and China and at same time

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have greater influence over Central Asia.

→ China : to counter West + engage with Central Asia + with India

→ India : engage with Pakistan regarding terrorism + advocate concerns regarding BRI + engage with Russia and with Central Asia.

How SCO can enhance India's interest in Eurasian region?

→ Platform to engage with Russia especially for diversifying our economic cooperation.

→ with China, Russia, C. Asia to ensure security via mechanism like RATS (Regional Anti Terrorism structure)

→ Countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan etc have vital resources like uranium, gold, rare earth minerals that are of Indian interest.

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→ India can promote its participation especially in the development of Central Asian nations, Russia, China via its construction companies, banking and IT sector.

→ SCO Peace Mission (military exercise) can enhance India's role in stabilising the Eurasian region.

Thus SCO has the potential to promote sustained and convergent engagements of India with Eurasia.

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